necessary treatment. I am sure that, with the co-operation of the two departments, it will be possible to carry on the work without any hitch. This is the first time that the existence of a hitch is brought to the notice of Government. I may assure the honourable member that if there is any real hitch or difficulty it will be looked into and remedied.

The question that a sum of Rs. 2,87,220 be granted under Demand XI—Public Health and Sanitation was then put and carried.

The grant was made.

## DEMAND XII—FOREST.

**Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai** (*Conservator of Forests*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 7,25,438 under demand XII Forest.

**Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai**: സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ഈ രാജ്യത്തു് റിസർവ് വനങ്ങൾ ഉൾപ്പെട്ട താലൂക്കുകളിൽ നെൽകൃഷിക്കു സാമാന്യേന സ്ഥലം വളരെ കുറവായിട്ടാണു കാണുന്നതു. അതുകൊണ്ടു ജനങ്ങൾ പുതുവലും മറ്റും ലേലത്തിൽ പിടിക്കയൊ പതിപ്പിക്കയൊചെയ്തു് താഴ്ന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളെ നിലമാക്കി നെൽകൃഷിചെയ്തുവരുന്നു. മുൻകാലങ്ങളിൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റിനുള്ളിൽ പ്രവേശിച്ചു നെൽകൃഷി ചെയ്യാമെന്നുണ്ടായിരുന്ന ഒരേർപ്പാടു ഗവണ്മെൻറു നിറുത്തൽചെയ്തു. അതുനിമിത്തം ആ താലൂക്കുനിവാസികൾ നെൽകൃഷിക്കു സ്ഥലമില്ലാതെ വളരെ ജനങ്ങൾ കഷ്ടത അനുഭവിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. ഇതിന്റെ പരിഹാരത്തിനായി ഒരു ഫാരസ്റ്റ് കൊല്ലത്തിനുമുമ്പു വൃക്ഷങ്ങളില്ലാത്തതും വൃക്ഷങ്ങളുണ്ടാകാത്തതും നെൽകൃഷിക്കുമാത്രം ഉപയുക്തവുമായ ചതുപ്പുസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ റിസർവ്വിൽനിന്നും വേർതിരിച്ചു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിനായി ഒരു കമ്മറിയെ ഏർപ്പെടുത്തി. ഓരോ ഡിവിഷനിലേയും ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിവിഷൻ ആഫീസർമാരും ഏതാനും ചിലനാൺ അഫീഷ്യൽ മെമ്പറന്മാരും അതിൽ മെമ്പർമാരായിരുന്നു. കൂടപാർപ്പിനു സമീപമുള്ള ഫാറസ്റ്റുകളിലുൾപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുള്ള ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളെ ഫാറസ്റ്റിൽനിന്നും വേർപെടുത്തി പത്തോ ഇരുപതോ ഏക്കർ വീതം ഓരോ ബ ളാക്കുകളായി തിരിച്ചു പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതിന് ആ കമ്മറി ശുപാർശചെയ്തു ഒരു റിപ്പോർട്ട് സമർപ്പിച്ചു. എന്നാൽ അക്കാലത്തും കൺസർവേറ്ററായിരുന്ന ഇന്നത്തെ കൺസർവേറ്റർതന്നെ അതിനു വലിയ വിരോധിയായിരുന്നു. തന്നിമിത്തം കമ്മറിയുടെ

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[Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.]

റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ച് ഒരിഞ്ചു സ്ഥലംപോലും കൃഷിക്കായി പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുവാൻ സാധിച്ചില്ല. നാലോ അഞ്ചോ ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം വീതമെങ്കിലും സാധുക്കളായിട്ടുള്ളവർക്കു പതിച്ചുകൊടുത്താൽ അവർക്കൊരു വലിയ അനുഗ്രഹമായിരിക്കും.

റവന്യൂ, എക്സൈസ് മുതലായ ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറുകളിലെ ഭരണറിപ്പോർട്ട് പ്രസിദ്ധപ്പെടുത്തുന്ന അവസരത്തിൽ അതാതു ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ ആദായം വർദ്ധിച്ചുവരുന്നുവെന്നു കാണിക്കുവാനായി പല ശ്രമങ്ങളും ചെയ്തുവരുന്നുണ്ട്, ഫോറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ ക ക ഠ-ലെ ആദായം ക൪, ക വ, നഠവ രൂപയായിരിക്കെ ക ക ക-ലെ ആദായം ക൯, ങ൯, ഛ൯ന രൂപയായി കുറഞ്ഞു. എന്നാൽ ആദായം കൂടുതൽ കാണിക്കാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ലാതെവന്നപ്പോൾ റിസർവിൻെറ വിസ്തീർണ്ണം കൂടുതലാക്കിക്കാണിക്കാൻ അങ്ങേഛം ശ്രമിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ട്. ന്യഠ ച. മൈലാണ് ഈ രാജ്യത്തിൻെറ ആകെ വിസ്തീർണ്ണം. അതിൽ ഛ൪ഠക ച. മൈൽ ങ൫ ഏക്കർ റിസർവാക്കിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. ക ഠന്ന-ൽ ഛനഛ൯ന ച. മൈൽ ഛ൹ക ഏക്കർ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുണ്ടായിരുന്ന റിസർവിനെ ക ക ഠ-ൽ നഛ ച. മൈൽ കൂടി. ക ക ക-ൽ ങ ച. മൈൽ കൂടി. ഇങ്ങനെ റിസർവിനെ കൂട്ടിക്കൂട്ടി നാട്ടിനോടു കൊണ്ടുചേർത്തിരിക്കയാണു. പണ്ടു കേരളംമുഴുവനും വനമായിരുന്നുവെന്നും വനത്തിലെ ഏതാനും ഭാഗം വെട്ടിത്തെളിച്ചു ജനങ്ങൾ കുടികയറി പാർത്തുവന്നിരുന്നുവെന്നുമാണ് മനസ്സിലാക്കിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. ഇന്നത്തെ നില കാട്ടു നാട്ടിലേക്കു കടന്നു മനുഷ്യരെ ഉപദ്രവിക്കുന്ന ഒരു സ്വഭാവമാകുന്നു കാണുന്നതു്. ഇങ്ങനെ റിസർവു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു വർദ്ധിപ്പിച്ചു കാട്ടിലുള്ള ദുഷ്ടമൃഗങ്ങൾ ധാരാളമായി നാട്ടിലിറങ്ങി കൃഷിയെയും കൃഷിക്കാരെയും നശിപ്പിക്കുന്നുണ്ടു. ഈ റിസർവ്വ് വർദ്ധിപ്പിക്കുന്നതു നയംതന്നെ എങ്ങനെയാണെന്നു നോക്കാം. റിസർവ് ഫോറസ്റ്റിനുസമീപം ജനങ്ങളുടെ പേരിൽ പതിവുഭൂമികളിൽ അളവിൽ കൂടുതലുള്ള ഭൂമിയെ അളന്നു ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റഗുലേഷൻ സെക്ഷൻ ര അനുസരിച്ചു ഗസറ്റ് നോട്ടിഫിക്കേഷൻ നടത്തുകയും പിന്നീടു സെക്ഷൻ ക വു അനുസരിച്ചു ഫൈനൽ നോട്ടിഫിക്കേഷൻ പ്രസ്താവിക്കുകയും ചെയ്യുന്നു. ഇപ്രകാരമാണു് ചേന്നക്കൽ Extension റിസർവ്വ് ങ ഠ ക ഏക്കർ സ്ഥലം ഫോറസ്റ്റ് റിസർവ്വിൽ ഉൾപ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുള്ളതു്. പിന്നെ ഒന്നുള്ളതു് കുന്നുകാലി മേച്ചിൽസ്ഥലങ്ങളെ റിസർവ്വിനോടു ചേർക്കുകയുള്ളതാണു്. കുന്നുകാലികൾക്കു് തീറ്റിസ്ഥലമില്ലാത്തതുകൊണ്ടു

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കൃഷിക്കാർ വിഷമിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നുള്ള സംഗതി കൃഷിഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിനു നല്ലപോലെ അറിയാം. അതിനെ ഒന്നും ഗൌനിക്കാതെ മേച്ചിൽ സ്ഥലങ്ങളെയെല്ലാം റിസർവ്വാക്കിവരുന്നു. കൺസർവേറരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ടനുസരിച്ചു ൧൯൨൬ ഏക്കർ വ്യ൦ സെൻറു വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള പശുപാറ മല ഗ്രാസിങ്ങ് ബ്ലാക്കു്, ൧൯൨൫ ഏക്കർ വിസ്തീർണ്ണമുള്ള സ്ഥലവും അഞ്ചൽഗ്രേസിങ്ങ് ബ്ലാക്കും റിസർവ്വാക്കിയിരിക്കുന്നതായി കാണുന്നു. ഈ നയം ഒരിക്കലും ആശാസ്യമായിട്ടുള്ളതല്ല.

ഡിപ്പാർട്ട്മെൻറിലെ ആദായം കാണിക്കുന്നതു് കൂപ്പുകൂലി ചെയ്തുകൊടുത്തു് തടികൂടി മുറിച്ചുവില്പിക്കുക, ആനയെ കഴിയിലിട്ടു പിടിച്ചു് ലേലത്തിൽ വില്പിക്കുക എന്നീ ഇനങ്ങളിലാണു്. ൧൯൨൫-ൽ വടക്കൻഡിവിഷനിലും സെൻട്രൽ ഡിവിഷനിലുംനിന്നു് ൧൨ ആനകളെ കഴിയിൽ പിടിക്കയും ലേലത്തിൽ വില്ക്കയുംചെയ്തു. ആന, സുകരങ്ങളെപ്പോലെ ചുരുങ്ങിയകാലംകൊണ്ടു പ്രസവിക്കുന്നതോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ ഒന്നിലധികം സന്താനങ്ങളെ ഒരേ സമയത്തു പ്രസവിക്കുന്നതോ ആയ ഒരു മൃഗമല്ല. ആന വളരെക്കാലംകൊണ്ടു പ്രസവിക്കയേ ഉള്ളു. അങ്ങനെ പ്രസവിക്കുന്നതും ഒരു കുട്ടിയെ മാത്രമാണു്. ഈ നിലയ്ക്കു് ആദായം കാണിക്കാൻവേണ്ടി വനത്തിലുള്ള ആനയെയെല്ലാം പിടിച്ചു ലേലത്തിൽ വിറ്റാൽ ഒടുവിൽ ഈ രാജ്യത്തു പണ്ടു് ആനയുണ്ടായിരുന്നു എന്നൊരു കേൾവിമാത്രം ശേഷിക്കുമെന്നല്ലാതെ ആനയൊന്നുംതന്നെ ശേഷിക്കുകയില്ല. മുമ്പു് റിസർവുകളിൽ ധാരാളം പുള്ളിമാനുണ്ടായിരുന്നു. ഞാൻതന്നെ അതു കണ്ടിട്ടുണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ ഇപ്പോൾ റിസർവുകളിലൊന്നിലുംതന്നെ പുള്ളിമാനില്ലാതെ അവിടെ മൃഗസിയത്തുകിടന്നിരുന്ന രണ്ടു ഡസൻ പുള്ളിമാനെ പേച്ചിപ്പാറവനങ്ങളിൽ വളരുന്നതിനായി കൊണ്ടുവിട്ടിരിക്കയാണു്. ഇന്നത്തെ നയം തുടർന്നുകൊണ്ടിരുന്നാൽ ഈ മാതിരിയുള്ള ഒരു ഫലം ആനയെ സംബന്ധിച്ചും ഇവിടെ വന്നുചേരും. റിസർവ്വിൽ ധാരാളം ആനകളുണ്ടെന്നു കൺസർവേറർ സംശയിക്കുന്നുണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നു. കുടിപാർപ്പിനോടു ചേർന്ന സ്ഥലത്തും ജലസൗകര്യമുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തും ചതുപ്പുനിലങ്ങളുള്ള സ്ഥലത്തുംമാത്രമേ ആനയെ കാണുകയുള്ളു. അല്ലാതെ റിസർവ്വിനകത്തുള്ള വനാന്തർഭാഗങ്ങളിൽ ആനയെ കാണുകയില്ല. റിസർവ്വിനകത്തു സഞ്ചരിക്കാതെ കാർ പോകാവുന്ന സ്ഥലങ്ങളിൽമാത്രം സഞ്ചരിക്കുന്ന കൺസർവേറർ ആനകളെ കാൺന്നതുകൊണ്ടു് റിസർവ്വിനകത്തു മറ്റു ഭാഗങ്ങളിലും ആന കാണുമെന്നാ

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[Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai.]

ന സംശയിക്കുന്നത്. അത് തെറ്റായ ഒരു ധാരണമാത്രമാകുന്നു. അ കൊണ്ട് വനങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും ആനകളെയെല്ലാം ഇങ്ങനെ പിടിച്ച് ലേലത്തിൽ വിൽക്കുന്നതു ശരിയല്ല.

**Mr. A. Eswara Pillai :** ആവശ്യങ്ങൾക്ക് ആന വേണ്ടേ?

**Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai :** ആവശ്യത്തിന് ആന വേണം. അതിനു നാലോ അഞ്ചോ കൊല്ലത്തിലൊരിക്കൽ പത്തോ പതിനഞ്ചോ ആനകളെ കഴിതോണ്ടി പിടിക്കണം. ഇതുപോലും സംഗതികൾ ഗവണ്മെൻറിന്റെ ശ്രദ്ധയിൽ കൊണ്ടുവന്നുകൊണ്ട് വിരമിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. K. R. Elenkath :** Sir, I oppose this demand in order to criticise the policy of the department in the ndiscriminate disafforestation. The upkeep of the reserved forests in the most perfect condition is a very important factor in controlling weather conditions. All the Doctors of Science will admit that the forest is Nature's best reservoir. It has been found by practical experience in countries all over the world that wherever there is strict conservancy of forests, a moderating influence has been exercised in preventing floods as well as in causing streams to form from forests. In the case of prevention of floods, the American Government have recently been very strict in the conservancy of forests in order to prevent the Mississippi floods. Even the adjoining territory of British India is very strict in conserving the Periyar Catchment Area. It was reported recently that the British Government have brought to the notice of the Travancore Government and criticised the action of the Travancore P. W. D. in removing some gravel from the outskirts of the reserved area. That shows how very particular those Governments are in the matter of preservation of forests. It is from forests, generally these streams arise. During summer, it is well-known that in intense forests, leaves fall and accumulate in the ground. They help to store up the rain water in forests, so much so, water is deposited in these fallen leaves and stay for some time. During hot weather, these waters flow in small streams. That is the reason why in intense forest regions many streamlets are found. In times of need they are useful for irrigation facilities, For example, let us take the Kochar in Trivandrum For years past, it did not threaten the town with floods. Now, forest slopes have been disafforested ; tobacco is very commonly planted in the forest slopes. Therefore we find occasional floods in recent times in Kochar. Coming to my own constituency, there is an Ela known as Perimchelambu Ela, which was never wanting in water and which have had floods for

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years past. In recent times, during winter season, there is surplus water and in summer, scarcity of water.

As was referred to the other day, people are experiencing hardships as a result of the catchment area of the Kodayar Project not well preserved. In 1967, the rate of rainfall was 166 inches whereas now it has gone down to as low as 80 inches. I should think that if the Government had taken care to conserve the forests in an efficient manner, that would have helped the country to prevent the excess water on account of floods and affording irrigational facilities at times of drought. With these remarks I resume my seat.

**Mr M. Govindan** : Sir, I was listening closely the discussion regarding the subject of conserving the forests of Travancore and particulary my honourable friend Mr. Elenkath's speech. I really confess that I was not able to follow all his arguments regarding floods and their connection with the conservation of forests. The general impression of the public is that, during the administration of forests by the present Conservator, no advice with regard to the consesrvation of forests is necessary, because, he is the most conservative of conservators. He will not allow one leaf to be touched from the forests. With regard to prosecutions for trespass, I can speak from my own personal experience that cases of even taking stones have come before me in another capacity. So much so, I can take the House into confidence and say that if any member of the legal profession takes up an engagement for the defence in a Forest prosecution he will not talk to him from that day onward. (*Laughter*) That is how the Travancore forests are conserved by the present Conservator of Forests. Any advice to him to conserve will be like carrying coal to Newcastle. On the other hand I want to speak against his spirit of conservation to a degree. He was all along against honeycombing the forests, with patches of cultivation, disintegration of the integrity of the forests etc., there are the expressions of the Conservator.

I want, in this connection, to say that swampy areas should be ear-marked for registry, particularly to Harijans.

**Mr. K. R. Elenkath** : May I know why the member is particular of getting forest areas ?

**Mr. M. Govindan**: Lowlying swampy areas are useful for cultivation. Forests in low plains are not useful for the purpose mentioned by Mr. Elenkath. It is forests in high elevations that require to be conserved and not lowlying swampy areas. They were cultivated once by the Harijans on behalf of others. Now what I ask is, the lowlying swampy areas may be registered on their behalf for purposes of cultivation to be carried on by them. Why not an arrangement for the registry of some puduval land on concessional terms to Harijan communities who are considered as

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[Mr. M. Govindan]

backward. Harijans and workers in their cause are deeply indebted to Government for their generosity in granting concessions to backward communities. Can not their generosity be further extended to registry of forest areas. According to the present arrangement some forest areas can be disafforested and handed over to the Revenue Department for registry. Before the lands reach the Revenue Department, a plan must be devised for the concessional registry of lands for the sake of Harijans. They have no chance in competition with others when once the lands reach the Revenue Department. I have nothing more to add.

**Mr. P. R. Goda Varma Raja:** I also wish to offer some remarks on the question of conserving forest areas. It is admitted by all that forests are a primal necessity and they regulate the coming of the monsoons. Rain water is one of the things on which agriculture chiefly depends. Therefore it is quite necessary that reserve forests should be conserved for the good of our country. I also agree with the views of my friend Mr. Govindan in the matter of registry of swampy areas on concessional rates to the Harijans. To such of the Harijans who have no land, at least, registry must be effected. It is very necessary that a re-survey of the forests is effected and certain areas earmarked for the backward classes. I think that the Government are not unmindful of the trespass cases in the reserves. I do not know why it is permitted. But I trust that Government will see into the matter and do the needful.

**Mr. James Fletcher:** Sir, I desire to offer a suggestion on the floor of this House with reference to the conservation of forests. Trivandrum is one of the biggest towns and there is a need for large quantity of milk supply in this town. This supply could be had in plenty when there is a good number of cattle. For cattle, good feeding is necessary. Where are we to get the fodder for them. For Trivandrum it is not possible to get grass and fodder from distant places like Nedumangad. Transport charges will outgrow the cost of fodder. Grass could be had in abundance during rainy seasons and they can be preserved by the new process I can suggest another source from which good grass can be got in Trivandrum. It is the place called Mukkunnimala, about 4 miles from Trivandrum which has a reserve forest. It does not contain many big trees It is surrounded by villages. I suggest that this area may be utilised for producing a large quantity of fodder. Good kinds of grass could be produced by the Forest Department and the sale of which will bring a large income to Government. Therefore I suggest that the Forest Department can try that experiment in that place.

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Secondly my friend Mr. Elenkath referred to the destruction of trees in the forest area. He never meant that the Conservator is destroying trees unnecessarily. Not only has he to conserve the forests, but also he has to show a good income to the State from the Forest Department.

**Mr. K. R. Elankath:** Is it the member's view that the Conservator's duty is to show income even when he is convinced that such income is detrimental to public interest?

**Mr. James Fletcher:** No, I condemn that idea In showing incomes to the State, he has to sell certain areas of forests as coupes. In that process certain areas which ought not to be sold may come in for sale. That is my point in this connection. As my friend Mr. Elenkath said, the catchment area of the Pachippara Dam is a place to be reserved and that ought not to come in for sale. Trees in those areas are valuable and they must be preserved in the best manner possible. This is what my friend wants to bring to the notice of Government. That is how I understood the matter. By properly keeping the forests and forest trees, immense advantages could be reaped. Possibility of floods could be prevented. Water will be allowed to flow out in smaller quantities in the forest regions. There is serious disadvantage in selling some of the places as coupes to be disaforested. Therefore the Conservator should take spacial care in conserving the reserves wherever available such as the catchment area of the Pechippara Dam. Another point is that trees have the quality of attracting rain clouds and stopping them. Monsoons are properly regulated by the forests. As will be seen during the south west monsoons, this side of the ghats gets plenty of rain while the other side of the ghats there is no rain. It is the trees on the ghats that prevent the rainy clouds from being blown away and help us to get more rain. In those areas where the trees are necessary for stopping the rainy clouds, the Conservator may take special care not to destory them.

I may also refer to the suggestion made by the honourable member Mr. Govindan, that swampy areas in the Reserve Forest may be registered to the poor Harijans. I would modify that request slightly. The Harijans earn their living not only by agriculture alone but by working as labourers also. If they leave the villages and go to the forest areas they may not be able to earn sufficient for their living. If they can afford to get lands registered near the villages then they can take agriculture as a side occupation and be employed as labourers in the villages. With that modification, I have no objection to the registry of those lands, as far as possible, to the poor Harijans.

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**Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiri** : സർ, ഞാൻ ഈ ധനാഭ്യർത്ഥനയെ എതിർക്കുന്നു. ഗവണ്മെൻറിന് തേക്കുതടിയിലുണ്ടായിരുന്ന അവകാശത്തിൽ കുറെഭാഗം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് വിട്ടുകൊടുത്തിരിക്കുകയാണല്ലോ. അതായത് മെയിൽ സെൻടൽ റോഡിനു പടിഞ്ഞാറുവശം നിൽക്കുന്ന തടികൾ മുഴുവനും ഗവണ്മെൻറ് മുറിച്ചെടുക്കുകയും മേലാലുണ്ടാകുന്ന തടികളുടെ അവകാശം കുടികാർക്ക് വിട്ടുകൊടുക്കുകയുമാണ് ചെയ്തിട്ടുള്ളത്. ഇതിൽ 6 ഇഞ്ചു ചുറ്റളവുള്ള തടികളെ തടികളായിട്ട് ഗണിക്കണമെന്നും അതിൽ കുറഞ്ഞ ചുറ്റളവുള്ളവയെ കഴയായിട്ടു ഗണിക്കണമെന്നും വ്യവസ്ഥയുള്ളതായി ഞാൻ ഓർക്കുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്നാൽ ഫാറസ്റ്റ് ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിലെ കൺടാക്ടർമാർ ഇപ്പോഴും തടി മുറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നതു കണ്ടാൽ ഇനി ഒരൻപതുകൊല്ലത്തേക്ക് ജനങ്ങൾക്കു തേക്കുതടി സ്വതന്ത്ര്യമായി ഉപയോഗിക്കാൻ പാടില്ലെന്നാണോ നിശ്ചയിച്ചിരിക്കുന്നതെന്നു തോന്നിപ്പോകും. ചുരുക്കത്തിൽ ഗവണ്മെൻറ് നാമകിയിട്ടുള്ള ഈ സൌജന്യംകൊണ്ട് ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് യാതൊരു പ്രയോജനവുമില്ല. അതായതു് 6 ഇഞ്ചു ചുറ്റളവുള്ള തടികൾപോലും അവർ മുറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുണ്ട്. എന്റെ അടുത്തുള്ള ഒരു സ്ഥലത്തു നിന്നും കൺടാക്ടർ ഇപ്രകാരം വളരെ വണ്ണംകുറഞ്ഞ കഴകൾപോലും ഉടമസ്ഥന്റെ അനുവാദമില്ലാതെതന്നെ മുറിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോയി. ഇങ്ങനെ തീരെ വണ്ണംകുറഞ്ഞ തടികൾ എന്തിനായി മുറിച്ചുകൊണ്ടുപോകുന്നുവെന്നു ചോദിച്ചതിനു അവർ പറഞ്ഞ സമാധാനം പള്ളിവാസൽ എലക്ട്രിക്ക് പദ്ധതിക്കു ഈ കഴകൾ വളരെ ആവശ്യമുള്ളതിനാൽ അങ്ങനെയുള്ളതെല്ലാം വെട്ടിമുറിച്ച് ഡിപ്പോവിൽ കൊണ്ടിടണമെന്നു കൺസർവേറ്ററുടെ ആർഡർ ഉണ്ടെന്നാണ്. എന്നാൽ ഇതുകൊണ്ട് ഒരു പ്രയോജനവും ഉണ്ടെന്നു തോന്നുന്നില്ല. ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു് അതു് ലേലത്തിൽ ഒട്ടു വിറ്റുപോകയുമില്ല. പിന്നെ വല്ല വിറകിനൊ മറ്റോ കൊള്ളാം. ആ തൈകൾ കുറെക്കാലംകൂടികഴിഞ്ഞാൽ ഉടമസ്ഥനു നല്ല ആദായത്തെ കൊടുക്കുമെന്നുള്ളപ്പോൾ അയാളെ നഷ്ടപ്പെടുത്താൻവേണ്ടിമാത്രം ഇത്തരത്തിൽ ചെയ്യുന്നതു് കഷ്ടമാണ്. ഇതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറിൽ പരാതികൊടുക്കാൻ കെൽപ്പുള്ളവരല്ല ഉടമസ്ഥന്മാർ. അതുകൊണ്ട് ഗവണ്മെൻറ് നിർണ്ണയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള വണ്ണത്തിൽകുറഞ്ഞ തടി ഒരിക്കലും വെട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോകരുതെന്നു കർശനമായ ഒരു നിർബന്ധന നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തേണ്ടതാണ്.

ഇനി എനിക്ക് കുടിവിലയെസംബന്ധിച്ചും ചിലതു് പറയുവാനുണ്ട്, പുരയിടങ്ങളിൽനിന്നും വെട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടുപോയിട്ടുള്ള തടികളുടെ

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കുടിവിലയിനത്തിൽ വളരെക്കാലത്തേക്കുള്ള പണം ജനങ്ങൾക്ക് കിട്ടുവാനുണ്ട്. കുടിവില ഗവണ്മെൻറ് കൊടുക്കുകയില്ലെന്നോ അല്ലെങ്കിൽ കൺസർവേറാർ ഇതിനെപ്പററി ശ്രദ്ധിക്കുകയില്ലെന്നൊ ഞാൻ പറയുന്നില്ല. എന്നാൽ കുറെയധികം അതായത് പത്തും പതിനഞ്ചും കൊല്ലത്തേക്കുള്ള കുടിവില കുടിശ്ശികയുണ്ടെന്നും, അത് ഗവണ്മെൻറിനു കൊടുക്കാൻ സാധ്യമല്ലെന്നും പറഞ്ഞെങ്കിലൊ എന്നുള്ള ഒരു ഭയവും ജനങ്ങളുടെയിടയിലുണ്ട്. ഇതിനുംപുറമെ ഇത്ര പണം കിട്ടാനുണ്ടെന്നുള്ളതിനുള്ള ഒരു കണക്കും കുടികളുടെ കയ്യിലില്ല. കൺട്രാക്ടർ പറയുന്ന കണക്കിനെ അവർ വിശ്വസിക്കേണ്ടിയിരിക്കുന്നു. അതിനാൽ തടി മുറിച്ചു കൊണ്ടുപോകുമ്പോൾ ഇത്രവണ്ണം, ഇതുനീളത്തിലുള്ള ഇത്ര തടികൾ മുറിച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടെന്നു ഒരു രസീതു കൺട്രാക്ടർ കുടികൾക്കു നൽകിയാൽ അവക്കൊരു സമാധാനമുണ്ട്. അതിനാൽ അങ്ങനെയുള്ള ഒരു വ്യവസ്ഥ കൂടി നടപ്പിൽ വരുത്തണമെന്നു ഞാൻ അഭ്യർത്ഥിച്ചുകൊള്ളുന്നു.

**Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar:** I oppose the demand. In opposing this demand, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government a serious matter with regard to the management of the forest department. The Dewan President in his address on another occasion has brought to the notice of the public that cashew nut planting is a source of great industry and that it has a great demand and prospects here as well as elsewhere. I find from the Administration Report of the Forest Department for the year 1111 that the area under cashew nut cultivation was 122 acres and the total yield from that industry was Rs. 95. In the reports at page 27, we find the following statement.

> "No new area was planted during the year and the area of the plantations remained the same. The area was thinned during the year at a cost of Rs. 42-12-0. The plantations are coming up well. The right of collection and disposal of the produce was leased during the year for B. Rs. 95 against B. Rs. 40 realised in 1110".

From 123 acres, the amount realised by lease was Rs. 95. It is not said when the plantation was started by the Forest Department. From the report, it is seen that there were no new plantations during the year. As a matter of fact ordinarily in takes two to three years for the tree to bear fruit. The conditions ought to be better in the forests. What I want to bring to the notice of the House and the Government is that necessary amount of attention by the department has not been paid to this industry which is a flourishing one which is capable of yielding very great profit.

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[Mr. G. Narayana Aiyar.]

I would request the Conservator to enlighten us as to whether any quantity of etta for the purpose of making paper was sent to any Company. As in 1110 and which what result, we have heard from the Conservator that we have got large quantities of etta fit for paper making. I have heard the Conservator saying that about 900 candies of etta has been sent to the Titagar paper Co., at Calcutta and that paper made out of our etta was very satisfactory. So I would request the Conservator to enlighten us as to the manner in which this produce was disposed of this year and whether the Government have any scheme about the etta in our forest and which abound in large quantities of etta.

**Mr. Kochikkal P. Balakrishnan Tampi**: Sir, I also oppose the demand. In doing so I wish to express my support of all the proposals initiated by my honourable friend Mr. Elankath. Although I could not see eye to eye with him in the geological and meterioligical part of his speech from the point of view of public finance, I agree with him, in the matter of conservation of the forests, a policy which every civilized Government must keep in view. Every Indian Government was a little behind European countries in the matter of conservation because the country whose models we have been following in all cannons of life was itself behind other European countries in the matter of Forest policy. In Germany and France, the land under forest varies from 40 to 50 per cent. of land surface. Therefore there is nothing alarming, as suggested by Mr. Kalloor Narayana Pillai, in the fact that there is a large area under forest in Travancore. But in congratulating the Conservator on his playing the jealous Dragon of the Forest as he was represented by Mr. Govindan, I want to draw his attention that the public of Travancore expected much greater things from a Conservator of Forests. He has been the Conservator for about 20 years. No great improvements have been effected in the forests. The minor produce has not been properly collected. No new policy was introduced in the collection of the produce. Here is the Conservator or the Government coming with the same report and there is absolutely no mention about research work that ought to be done in the forests. We hear of great research work that is being done in the forests of India, especially in Deradun and other places.

I was very much astonished to come across a passage which refers to the family quarrel in the Forest Department. This is the passage I came across in the administration of the Forest Department. Sir, there is a paragraph in the Administration Report of the Department for 1111 in which it is said that many officers of the department were directly sending petitions to Government regarding injustices shown to them in the matter of supersessions ; and all those family affairs of the Forest Department, and that the head of the family the patriarch resents it.

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**Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai**: May I know Sir, where it is said?

**Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi**: I may refer my very honourable friend to page 51 of the Administration Report of his Department for the year 1111 where he holds up with approval the circular issued by Government in which it is said that it is not very fair for the officers of the Forest Department to directly approach Government. That it should become such a chronic affair with the Forest Department betokens that something is rotten in that department and if I may use the pompous phrase in the State of Denmark. I wish the Conservator had bestowed more attention to the improvement and the conservation, in the real sense, of the forest. In that sense the Conservator also may have a good deal to speak in his favour. I do accuse the attitude of Government in the matter of forests as not being the correct one. To think that the Forest Department is a department from which income should alone be taken into account is not the correct view which ought to be taken by Government. More money should be certainly expended on the forests. In this point of view also I sympathise the Conservator for being subjected to such vicarious criticisms.

**Mr. N. V. Chacko**: Sir, the forests are certainly one of the most important sources of revenue. But the attention of the Conservator is only directed to the work of cutting the trees and sending down the timber. Provisions for planting new trees are not made. Systematic and scientific efforts are not made to improve our forests. It seems that the main function of the Forest Department is only to prosecute trespassers who may get into the reserved areas. But no improvement in any manner is done to the forests. There are several experts in the department. But their services as experts are not utilised systematically for improving the forests. Prosecution of offenders and trespassers and the administration of office are the only two main functions of the Forest Department. Such works can be done better by persons who are not specialised in Forestry. Efforts should be made to make the best use for all these experts with a view to improve our forests in the real sense of the term. We are blessed in our forests which contribute a big source of wealth and they should be preserved very zealously.

With these words I resume my seat.

**Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai**: Sir, the policy of the Forest Department was laid down as early as 1068 when the Forest Regulation was passed. The State was then under the Madras Government and in reviewing the Administration Report in Madras Government repeatedly pointed out that the area of the forests brought under re-

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

servation was inadequate. Similar observations also for a mountainous country like Travancore were made by successive Residents and as a result about the year 1900 the area under reservation stood at about 2100 square miles.—Reservation of further areas was also in progress.

**Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai :** ഒരുലക്ഷത്തി അൻപതിനായിരം ഏക്കറോളം സ്ഥലം ഒരു വിദേശക്കമ്പനിക്ക് പതിച്ചുകൊടുക്കുന്നതുകൊണ്ട് ദോഷമില്ലെന്നു കൺസർവേറാർ കൂടി മെംബറായിരുന്ന ഏക്കണാമിക്ക് ഡവലപ്പ്മെൻറ് ബോർഡിൽ അഭിപ്രായപ്പെട്ടിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

**President:** The Conservator will please proceed.

**Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai:** Later on after the formation of the Popular Assembly it was brought to the notice of Government that the area brought under reservation was rather too much and more areas should be given to the people for cultivation. These subjects came up so often from representative bodies of the public that the Government called together a conference of the officers of the Forest and other Departments at Quilon to consider this question. Government laid down finally the policy of the Forest Department in the form of a Proceedings in 1907. In this proceedings it is laid down that no further reservation was to be made and all lands which were reserved were to be consolidated and since there was a demand for lands for grazing purposes, more areas shonld be reserved for this purpose. It was this policy that the department was following ever after. There had been no deviation as far as that policy was concerned. But it so happened that in some cases new situations arose and Government found it necessary to disafforest lands where change of conditions necessitated. So a judicious policy of disafforestation was carried on since that time though the original idea of keeping a certain extent of area under reservation was almost rigidly adhered to.

Mr. Kallur Narayana Pillai has been saying that even in spite of the policy there has been increase in the area of reserves in successive years. Sir, he mentioned a few so called extension Reserve—They are not new Reserves. They are areas which were proposed for reservation for sale nearly 25 years ago but were finally settled and proceedings completed only recently. Final notifications under Section 18 were published only recently and perhapes it is this fact that makes him think that they were new Reserve. The small increase in areas which he referred to was brought about by the final Survey and demarcation by which a few acres here and a few acres there had to be adjusted. I may however assure the House that there were no reservations made on a large scale.

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**Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi :** Was there any proposal to register some considerable area in the reserve forests in favour of some people to whom the Rubber Factory is leased out ?

**Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai :** If my friend Mr. Tampi refers to Mr. Swaminadhan, the getleman who has taken the Rubber Factory on lease. I may say that an application for the registry of 1000 acres was received from him and I know Government have rejected his application.

Then with regard to the grazing blocks Mr. Narayrna Aiyar pointed out that the grazing blocks which have been reserved as such, are not now opened for cattle to graze. This is not so. Grazing blocks are reserved for the convenience of the people living in the surrounding areas to graze their cattle. But as soon as reservation is completed all such lands are transferred to the Revenue Department. It is only to give a legal status to such lands under the Forest Regulation, the Forest Department is going through the formality of reserving such lands.

Next we come to the question of the swampy areas. This subject has come before the Assembly also. Government appointed several taluk committees for this purpose in different places and nearly 6000 acres of swampy areas have been sanctioned by Govern. ment for disafforestation. But they are in different stages of registration and even now 2000 acres of such lands are available awaiting applications. My friend Mr. Govindan had a request that such swampy areas should be given on registry to the Harijan people. No body can be more sympathetic towards Harijan uplift as I am and this fact the honourable member himself knows. But unfortunately it is not the Forest Department that is responsible for the registry. When once such swampy areas are disafforested they are handed over to the Revenue Department and registration proceedings are attended by them. Then Sir, as regard conservation and preservation of Forests, it is indeed a great relief after listening to demands elsewhere for the disafforestation of forests extensively that in this House there is a unanimous cry for conservation of Forests. Several honourable members have suggested that Goverment should take particular care to see that the forests are kept intact. Sir, nobody can be more conservative with regard to the question of preserving forests as I am. I feel proud of the peculiar position I have attained as a jealous guardian of the Forests as Mr. Govindan said. Mr. Elankath also expressed the same opinion though in a different form. There was a little ambiguity with regard to what he said and I am thankful to my friend Mr. Fletcher for clearing it. A major portion of catchment area of the Kodayar Reservoir is confined to the valley of the Muthukuzhi Vyal. Here the forest is impenitrable and is maintained in its prestine glory. Man has not interfered with this

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[Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai.]

area. There is only a small portion of 30 square miles which we see just in front of the dam requiring attention. That area is occupied by hillmen who were there for a very long time. Without driving them out it is not possible to preserve that area intact. Two coupes of the Virapuli working circle fall within the area. But there was a difference of opinion between the P. W. D. and the Forest Department and finally the Forest Department had to confine their working to one coupe only and had practically given up working the other coupe. The only way by which the catchment area can be better preserved is by asking the hillmen to go to some other place. However I do not know whether by so doing we would be able to increase the rainfall. The rainfall diminishes as men interferes with nature. Mr. Elankath pointed out that the original rainfall at Pechippara was 166 inches. It was 120 inches when the dam was constructed. Now it is 80 to 90 inches and it may occasionally go up to 100 inches. So to increase the rainfall by merely preserving the forests nothing much could be done. We are doing whatever is possible to preserve the catchment area. Mr. Fletcher made another suggestion with regard to the supply of fodder to the local cattle. Travancore cattle is allowed to graze free in all the reserves. Even in the Nedumangad Reserves the cattle are allowed to graze free. There was a place here where the Agricultural Department used to send their cattle during the dry season. With the abolishing the cattle farm at Perukkadai this area has now been handed over to a co-operative society which collects a fee of one rupee per month and look after the cattle sent there. Mr. Fletcher suggested the making of sites and for supplying fodder to Trivandrum Cattle. This has been tried by the Agricultural Department and later by the Forst Department during the time of the great flood. Unfortunatly, our grass is so coarse that it does not lend itself to the making of proper ensilage. Another alternative proposal as that was made was that grass should be grown in the Mukkunni Reserve. This is a very small forest which is kept as a Reserve more as an adornment for the town than for anything else. Its area is only about 300 acres, and it is all so rocky. We preserve it because it is so near the town and the people of the town can resort to it when they feel tired of town life.

Mr. Thuppan Nampoetiri complained that the Forest Department was felling teak trees of small girth. I have issued a circular that no tree below 30 inches girth were to be felled. He referred perhaps to some trees in Kumaranallur which were felled to meet an urgent demand of the Electric Department for some teak poles for use at Kothamangalam. It was then not possible for us to send teak sapplings from Aryankavu or Konni all the way to Neriamangalam.

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**Mr. C. N. Tuppan Namputiri :** ഡിപ്പാർട്ടുമെൻറ് നിർണ്ണയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള അളവിൽ കുറവായ വണ്ണമുള്ള തടികൾ വെട്ടിക്കൊണ്ടു പോകുമ്പോൾ ആ തടികൾക്കും അനാംതരം തടികളുടെ വിലതന്നെ കൊടുക്കേണ്ടതല്ലേ?

**Mr. R. Dhanukoti Pillai :** It was however found that the poles collected from private lands were not very useful for the Electric Department, and we had to abandon the idea of further supply from such places.

He also referred to the question of payment of kudivila. Sir, we were having that complaint ever since the reformed Council come into existence. Now, we have devised a set of rules by which kudivila is being paid as soon as the timber is delivered at the depot. The real point is that, during the past several decades, arrears had accumulated to such a large extent that special staff had to be appointed to clear them off. Now Government have appointed such special staff which is clearing the arrears as quickly as possible; and every year provision is made in the budget for about Rs. 80,000 for the payment of kudivila claims. The work is progressing rapidly, and the department is submitting to the Government quarterly statements about the progress of the work. Government are very keen in seeing that the work is finished and the persistent complaint removed as expeditiously as possible.

Mr. Thuppan Nampootiri also said that no receipt is being given when trees are removed from private holdings. Sir, when a tree is felled from private land, a mahazar is prepared with the help of the subordinates of the Revenue Department ; and, if the real owner of the property is on the spot, a receipt is also given to him. Some times it happens that the real owner is not on the spot; in such a case only the mahazar is prepared ; no receipt is given.

The Demand was put to vote and carried.

The grant was made.

## DEMAND XIII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION, EXCLUDING FINANCIAL SECRETARIAT, ACCOUNT OFFICE, LEGISLATIVE BODIES, AND PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSIONER.

**Rao Bahdur Rajyasevanirata Dr. N. Kunjan Pillai :** Sir, I rise to move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 2,62,273, under Demand XIII—General Administration, excluding Financial Secretariat, Account Office, Legislative Bodies and Public Service Commissioner.



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